[English]

High Quality Air Trasnsport Services

1958. SHRI VIJAY PATEL :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has great potential as a tourist destination;

(b) whether lack of adequate and high quality air transport services has blunted India's potential for tourism development and growth;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the measures proposed to be taken to improve frequency and quality of air services in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Improvement of air transport services is a continuous process which involves huge investments for fleet acquisition, construction of airports and other infrastructure facilties.

(d) Opening of the domestic sector to private airlines has injected an element of competition in aviation industry and in-turn has improved the frequency and quality of air services in the country. Indian Airlines has increased its capacity deployment by 15% and taken steps to improve the quality of services both on ground and in the air. Air India is also taking steps to improve its product, image and on-time performance to attract more passengers and to improve revenue. New destinations have been added in the recent past to improve passenger satisfaction. Airports Authority of India is planning to spend Rs.3490 crores during 9th Plan period for upgrading various airports.

Target of Expansion

1959. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the target of expansion of Postal Network in the country particularly in regard to opening of Extra Departmental Branch Officers (EDBOs), upgradation of EDBOs to Departmental Sub Officers (DSOs), supply of letter boxes to Rural & Tribal areas during the Eighth Plan, State-wise separately;

(b) whether during 1994-95 the physical targets of various programmes of expansion of postal network have been drastically curtailed;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target set out at the begining of the current plan?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The target of expansion of Postal Network in the country particularly with regard to opening of Extra Departmental Branch Post offices (EDBOs) and Departmental Sub Post Offices (DSOs) Postal Circle-wise is given in Annexure-I. No separate target is fixed for upgradation of EDBOs. The target for opening of DSOs includes upgradation from EDBOs to DSOs. The supply of letter boxes in accordance with the policy to provide letter boxes in villages having a population over 500 has been made. The information regarding supply of letter boxed to Rural Tribal areas during the Eighth Plan, statewise is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c). The target of opening of Post Offices for whole of the country was lowered to reduce the extent of budgetary support.

(d) The original targets could not be restored, subsequent to the reduction referred to above.

STATEMENT

Circle-wise Target

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	1992-93		1993-94		1994-95		1995-96		1996-97	
		BO*	SO*	BO	SO	BO	SO	BO	SO	BO	SO
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19	5	17	5	2	5	2	5	2	5
2.	Assam	27	3	25	3	5	4	4	4	2	4
3.	Bihar	70	8	90	8	3	11	10	11	10	11
4.	Delhi	-	5	-	6	-	10	-	10	1	10
5.	Gujarat	25	5	20	8	5	12	4	12	5	12
6.	Haryana	10	3	10	5	2	12	2	10	4	10
7.	Himachal Pradesh	15	1	15	2	12	6	7	10	4	10
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	5	1	5	1	-	2	-	2	2	2
9.	Karanataka	15	5	15	6	1	11	1	10	2	10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10.	Kerala	10	3	20	3	3	12	1	9	1	9
11.	Madhya Pradesh	55	5	35	5	5	9	9	9	9	9
12.	Maharashtra	55	10	80	11	10	6	9	12	9	12
13.	North-East	35	5	40	4	1	1	4	4	2	4
14.	Orissa	40	5	35	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
15.	Punjab	10	3	10	3	3	5	2	4	2	4
16.	Rajasthan	60	6	30	5	5	12	5	10	5	10
17.	Tamil Nadu	14	7	10	4	2	5	2	4	2	4
18.	Uttar Pradesh	75	10	93	12	14	19	12	16	12	16
19.	West Bengal	60	10	50	5	3	4	2	4	2	4
	Total	600	100	600	100	80	150	80	150	80	150

* BO Branch Post Offices
** SO Sub Post Offices

Repetition of Serials

1960. SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether TV-serials like Mahabharata and Krishna are being telecast/retelecast over and over again, some times breaking the serial mid way and re-starting it again;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the details of the other serials being replayed and telecast again?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). No, Sir. The serial 'Mahabharat' was earlier telecast on DD-I and is now being repeated on DD-2 after a gap of three years. The serial 'Srikrishna', before it completed its telecast on DD-2, was shifted to DD-1 and is/was re-relecast with additional footage to enable more viewers in the country to see it. Similarly, the serials 'Bible Ki Kahaniyan' and Sabka Malik Ek Hai' were also re-telecast with additional footage.

[Translation]

Setting up of AIR Station Mandla, Madhya Pradesh

1961. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of AIR stations in Madhya Pradesh, location-wise;

(b) the number of stations commissioning till date, location-wise; and

(c) the time by which the remaining stations are likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). At present, 19 radio stations located at Ambikapur, Bhopal, Chhatarpur, Gwalior, Indore, Jabalpur, Jagdalpur, Raipur, Rewa, Khandwa, Betul, Bilaspur, Shivpuri, Chhmdwara, Raigarh, Shahdol, Balaghat, Guna and Sagar are functioning in the State of Madhya Pradesh. No other station is technically ready for commissioning.

Telephone Connections Provided in Bihar

1962. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the telephone connections provided in Bihar during the year 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 till date, district-wise;

(b) the number of persons in the waiting list till October, 1996, district-wise;

(c) the time by which these are likely to be cleared, district wise;

(d) whether any special scheme has been formulated for the expansion and development of the telephone services and telephone exchanges;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the funds allocated therefor during the year 1996-97, district-wise;

(g) whether Government have received any complaints regarding the irregularities in issuing the telephone connections; and

(h) if so, the detials thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) The details are given in Statement.